

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/797
2 January 1991

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- ◆ Security Council holds 69 meetings in 1990, same number as previous year.
- ◆ Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur on Situation in Afghanistan to visit Afghanistan and Pakistan.

* * *

During 1990, the forty-fifth year of its existence, the Security Council held a total of 69 meetings, the same number as in 1989.

The first Council meeting in 1990 was held on 11 January and the last one -- the 2,972nd -- on 22 December.

The Council devoted 15 meetings to the situation arising out of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. During the course of those meetings, the Council condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, approved mandatory sanctions against Iraq, declared its annexation of Kuwait null and void, demanded that it permit and facilitate the departure of third-country nationals, condemned its aggressive acts against diplomatic facilities and personnel in Kuwait, banned air transport to or from Iraq or Kuwait and demanded that Iraq end the taking of third-country nationals as hostages. It also heard testimony of human rights violations by Iraq in Kuwait. Finally, on 29 November, it authorized the use of "all necessary means" to ensure Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait if its occupation continued beyond 15 January 1991.

Twenty-five of the Council's meetings during the year were devoted to the situation in the Middle East and related questions, including the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Israeli settlement of Soviet immigrants in those territories and the protection of Palestinian civilians, particularly in view of the October 1990 violence at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The Council subsequently condemned especially the violence by Israeli security forces at the Jerusalem Holy Places. Also covered were activities of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

(more)

1574P

On other issues, the Council devoted six meetings to the activities of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and two meetings to complaints brought by Nicaragua and Cuba, respectively. Four meetings were devoted to the situation between Iran and Iraq and the activities of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) and five meetings to the situation in Cyprus, including the work and financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

It devoted one meeting to peace-keeping operations, one meeting to extending the United Nations military detachment to Afghanistan and Pakistan and two meetings to the situations in Western Sahara and Cambodia, respectively. It devoted two meetings each to the admission of new Members to the United Nations -- Namibia and Liechtenstein. Two meetings were held to fill five vacancies on the International Court of Justice. Another meeting was held in private to adopt the Council's report to the General Assembly. At its final meeting of 1990, the Council terminated the trusteeship arrangements for three of the four entities of the United States-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The five permanent members of the Council are: China, France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and United States.

The 10 non-permanent members of the Council in 1990 were Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Finland, Malaysia, Romania, Yemen and Zaire.

On 1 January 1991, Austria, Belgium, Ecuador, India and Zimbabwe replaced Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland and Malaysia for two-year terms.

* * *

The Commission on Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on the Situation in Afghanistan began today a five-day mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The visit stems from the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, Felix Ermacora, as set out in a Commission resolution adopted last year. He will submit a report to the Commission at its forty-seventh session which will be held in Geneva from 28 January to 8 March.

* * * * *